

We claim:

1. A method for use by an access point in a wireless communications environment including multiple access points and stations, wherein stations gain network access by associating with one or more of the access points, comprising the steps of:

keeping track of one or more parameters related to stations in the network;
causing a station to become associated with the access point based upon the one or more parameters.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of keeping track includes logic for receiving messages from stations, and wherein the messages include at least some of the one or more parameters.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein a parameter is the number of stations associated with the access point.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein the parameter is the distance of a station from the access point.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein at least some of the one or more parameters are stored in a table.

6. A method for use in an access point in a wireless communications environment including multiple access points and stations, wherein stations gain network access by associating with one or more of the access points, comprising the steps of:

keeping track of one or more parameters related to stations in the network by receiving messages from stations, wherein the messages include at least some of the one or more parameters;

wherein a parameter may be the number of stations associated with the access point, and wherein another parameter may be the distance of a station from the access point; and

causing a station to become associated with the access point based upon the one or more parameters.